

## Connecticut's Advisory Committee on Minority and Women's History

Realizing that certain groups were not participating in historic preservation activities associated with the Connecticut Historical Commission (CHC), and in order to provide better information on minority and women's history and associated sites, the Connecticut Historical Commission's Advisory Committee on Minority and Women's History (ACMWH) was formed in 1990. The membership of the committee is representatives of the various minority groups in the state and includes college professors, teachers, museum directors, architects, National Register and survey consultants, and ministers.



*Advisory committee, Hartford, CT, November 1990.*

The purpose of the committee is to provide the people of Connecticut with the opportunity to become more aware of the state's cultural diversity and identify sites which represent that diversity; to broaden the spectrum of minority participation in historic preservation activities; and to provide better information on minority and women associated properties which have generally been overlooked or under represented in historic property surveys and National Register nominations.

The information on numerous sites throughout the state has been received; and in the area of women's history, the following is indicative of the range of information received:

- Information on Lucia Ruggles Holman Tomlinson, the first American woman to circumnavigate the world. A grave monument and house were identified in Brookfield.
- Properties in New Haven and Chester were identified as being associated with Constance Baker Motley, the first black woman to be appointed to the federal bench.
- In Danbury, the former home and rehearsal studio of Marion Anderson were identified.
- In East Haddam, three women were identified: May Talbot Dougherty, the only female owner and manager of a cotton mill complex in the Moodus section; Vivian Kellems, famed industrialist and tax reformer; Dr. Emma Thompson, a charter member of the Connecticut Botanical Society who collected over 1500 botanical specimens.
- In Hampton, "The House That Women Built" stands as a tribute to the energy and courage of the women of the Revolution, and a memorial to the romance of Sarah Hammond and Uriel Mosely.
- From Hartford, The names of Ann Plato, one of the earliest black women writers to be published in America and Laura Wheeler Waring, Harlem Renaissance painter, were submitted.
- In Monroe, the home and studio of the Burr sisters were identified. Fannie C. and Jennie M. Burr were featured in a Wadsworth Atheneum show, "American Women Artist 1830-1930."
- From New Haven, information has been provided on a property associated with Julia de Burgos, considered one of the best poets of Latin America. She died in New Haven 1953.
- In Old Saybrook, the home and business of Ana Louise James, Connecticut's first black woman pharmacist, and birthplace of Ann Petry, Harlem Renaissance writer, was identified.

—Cora Murray, *Connecticut Historical Commission*

—Cece Saunders, *Historical Perspectives Inc.*